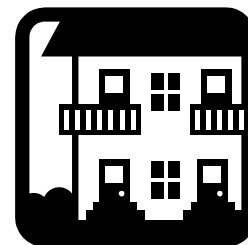


CRIME-FREE MULTI-HOUSING

Live in an apartment? Take action to prevent crime and ask your property manager or landlord to become involved with the **CRIME-FREE MULTI-HOUSING** program.

In apartment rental properties, residents tend to be transient. Most often, tenants sign a six-month, nine-month or twelve-month lease. In many cases, landlords don't even require leases and residency is based on an oral month-to-month agreement. With a month-to-month rental, occupants can move easily if they feel crime in their apartment complex has reached a level they will not tolerate, with only a ten day notice to their landlord prior to the end of any month. In apartment communities, tenants often find it easier to move away from crime rather than confront crime.



WHAT IS THE CRIME-FREE MULTI-HOUSING PROGRAM?

Historically, police have fought a losing battle against crime in multi-family rental properties. In January 1992, The Mesa, Arizona Police Department was faced with the choice of either suspending all anti-crime programs for rental properties or developing a new approach to crime prevention in rental communities. The result was the **CRIME-FREE MULTI-HOUSING PROGRAM**.

CRIME-FREE MULTI-HOUSING is a bold new program, designed to take a multi-faceted approach to crime prevention. By creating a unique coalition of police, property managers and rental property residents, the program developed a phased approach that included:

- Development of a certification process, never-before offered by a police department. The police-issued incentives included signs, certificates and advertising privileges.
- Development of the **Crime-free Lease Addendum**, which is the backbone of the program. The **Addendum** lists specific criminal acts that, if committed on or near a rental property, result in the immediate termination of a renter's lease.

The **CRIME-FREE MULTI-HOUSING PROGRAM** achieved almost instant success. In rental properties with the highest crime rates, the immediate results showed up to a 90% reduction in police calls-for-service. Even in the best properties, reductions of 15%-20% were not uncommon. The **CRIME-FREE MULTI-HOUSING PROGRAM** has spread nationally and internationally, and has been just as successful in communities across the United States, Canada and the world.

SOME THINGS APARTMENT RESIDENTS CAN DO:

- Talk with your neighbors and solicit their support in watching out for each other. All it takes is neighbors getting to know neighbors.
- Contact the Longmont Police Department at 303-774-4440 to arrange for a beat officer to speak to your apartment community about safety tips and current crime patterns.
- Work with your landlords to sponsor social events for tenants

- Look beyond problems to root causes – does your building need a better playground, a social evening for teens, a tenant association or new landscaping? Work with the landlord for changes that make everyone proud of where they live.
- Does your entry door have a deadbolt lock and wide angle viewer?
- Does your sliding glass door have a wooden rod or metal brace in the track so it can't be opened and pins in the overhead frame so it can't be lifted out?
- Does your landlord or building manager tightly control all keys?

CHECK OUT YOUR BUILDING

- Are walkways, entrances, parking areas, elevators, hallways, stairways, laundry rooms and storage areas well-lit, 24 hours a day?
- Are fire stairs locked from the stairwell side above the ground floor so you can exit but no one can enter?
- Are mailboxes placed in a well-traveled, well-lit area and do they have good locks?
- Is the property well maintained – are burnt out lights fixed promptly, shrubs trimmed, trash removed?
- Is the complex checked on a regular basis for such problems as burned-out light bulbs, broken windows or windows that don't lock, dark corridors, uncollected trash or broken locks on mailboxes and doors. Report problems immediately to the building manager.
- Organize meetings to brainstorm how you can help each other, such as starting an escort service for the elderly or after-school care for children. Forming friendships and community networks benefits adults and children alike.
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Take a Stand Against Crime. Join an APARTMENT WATCH!

Adapted from THE NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL
<http://www.ncpc.org>